

ARTICLE 14 - HARNESS RACING RULES

112-14-1. Reserved.

112-14-2. Duties of a harness race starter.

(a) The licensed starter shall be in the starting car 15 minutes before the first race.

(b) After one or two preliminary warming up scores, the licensed starter shall notify each driver to come to the starting gate. During or before the parade, the licensed starter shall inform each driver of the number of scores permitted.

(c) The licensed starter shall have control over the horses from the parade until the word "go" is given.

(d) The licensed starter shall notify the stewards of any violations of these racing regulations by any driver. Any driver violating these rules of racing may be set down, fined or suspended.

(e) The horses shall be brought to the starting gate no nearer than one-eighth of a mile before the start, unless otherwise required by track construction or design.

(f) The licensed starter shall allow sufficient time to increase the speed of the gate gradually; the following minimum speeds shall be maintained:

(1) For the first 1/8 mile, not less than 11 miles per hour; and

(2) for the next 1/16 of a mile not less than 18 miles per hour.

(3) for the first 3/16 mile or to the starting point, whichever is less, the speed shall be gradually increased until the mobile starting gate pulls away from the field of horses.

(g) On one-mile tracks, each horse shall be brought to the starting gate at the head of the stretch and the relative speeds in subsection (f) shall be maintained.

(h) The starting point shall be point-marked on the inside rail not less than 150 feet from the first turn. The licensed starter shall give the word "go" at the starting point.

(i) There shall be no decrease in speed of the mobile gate, except in the case of a recall.

(j) In the case of a recall, the licensed starter shall leave the wings of the gate

extended, and wherever possible, gradually slow the speed of the mobile gate to assist in stopping the field of horses. In an emergency, the licensed starter shall determine whether to close the wings of the gate.

(k) The licensed starter shall have control of the horses from the formation of the parade until the licensed starter gives the word "go." Each horse, regardless of its position or an accident, shall be a starter when the licensed starter gives the word "go." Each horse shall complete the course except in case of an accident, broken equipment, or any other reason which, in the opinion of the stewards or the licensed starter makes it impossible to complete the course.

(l) There shall be no recall for a horse that breaks from its gait.

(m) Each licensed starter shall sound a recall when:

(1) A horse scores ahead of the gate;

(2) there is interference;

(3) there is broken equipment;

(4) there is a malfunction of the starting gate; or

(5) a horse falls before the word "go" is given.

(n) A mechanical loudspeaker shall be used only for giving instructions to drivers. The volume shall be no higher than necessary to carry the voice of the licensed starter to the drivers.

(o) Any horse may be held on the backstretch not more than two minutes awaiting post time, except when delayed by an emergency.

(p) If in the opinion of the stewards or the starter, a horse is unmanageable or liable to cause accidents or injury to any other horse or to any driver, the horse may be sent to the barn.

(q) The arms of each starting gate shall be provided with a screen or a shield in front of the position for each horse, and each arm shall be perpendicular to the rail.

(r) The licensed starter shall check the starting gate for malfunctions before commencing any meeting, and shall practice the procedure to be followed in the event of a

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malfunction. Both the licensed starter and the driver of the car shall know and practice emergency procedures, and the starter shall be responsible for training drivers in emergency procedures.

(s) Each horse winning a heat shall take the pole or inside position in the succeeding heat, unless otherwise specified in the published conditions, and all others shall take their positions in the order they were placed in the last heat. If two or more horses run a dead heat, their positions shall be determined by lot.

(t) Only the licensed starter, the starter's driver, and a patrol judge shall be allowed to ride in the starting gate, unless otherwise directed by the commission.

(u) If there are two tiers of horses, the withdrawing of a horse that has drawn or earned a position in the front tier shall not affect the position of the horses that have drawn or earned positions in the second tier. If a horse is withdrawn from any tier, the horses on the outside shall move toward the pole position. If a horse has drawn a post position in the second tier, the driver of the horse may score out behind any horse in the first tier so long as the driver does not interfere with another trailing horse or deprive another trailing horse of a drawn position.

(v) If horses are started without a gate, the licensed starter shall have control of the horses from the formation of the parade until the starter gives the word "go." The word "go" shall be given at the wire or other point of the start of the race. The licensed starter shall be located at the wire or other point of the start of the race.

(1) No driver shall cause unnecessary delay after the horses are called to parade.

(2) After two preliminary warming up scores, the licensed starter shall notify the drivers to form in order of post positions. The driver of any horse refusing or failing to follow the instructions of the licensed starter as to the order of post positions, or scoring ahead of the pole horse may be set down for the heat in which the offense occurs.

(3) If a driver is set down, the substitute shall be permitted to score the horse once.

(4) A horse delaying the race may be started regardless of its position or gait and there shall be no recall on account of a fractious horse.

(5) If the word is not given, each horse in the race shall immediately turn at the tap of a bell or other signal, and jog back to their parade positions for a fresh start. No recall shall be made after the starting word has been given.

(w) Each driver shall obey the starter's instructions as to:

(1) Rushing ahead of the inside or outside wing of the gate;

(2) coming to the starting gate out of position;

(3) crossing over before reaching the starting point;

(4) interference with another driver during the start;

(5) laying back or failing to come up into position;

(6) actions causing a delay in the start; and

(7) every other matter relating to a fair start. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1988 Supp. 74-8804(p); effective, T-112-7-27-89, July 27, 1989; effective Sept. 18, 1989.)

112-14-3. Drivers' meeting. (a) Before the first race at any harness meet is run, each official and each driver shall meet at a time and place designated by the chief steward to discuss the rules. Each driver shall be notified of the time and place of this meeting in writing. The notice shall be delivered to the stable of the driver at least one day before the meeting. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1988 Supp. 74-8804(p); effective, T-112-7-27-89, July 27, 1989; effective Sept. 18, 1989.)

112-14-4. Harness track traffic procedure. Each horse meeting another horse on the track shall pass to the left. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A.

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1988 Supp. 74-8804(p); effective, T-112-7-27-89, July 27, 1989; effective Sept. 18, 1989.)

112-14-5. Harness racing conduct. (a) A leading horse shall be entitled to any part of the track until a position is selected in the home stretch.

(b) No driver in a race shall:

(1) Change to the right or left during any part of the race when another horse is so near that, in altering the position, the driver compels the horse following to shorten that horse's stride, or causes the driver of the other horse to pull the horse out of stride;

(2) jostle, strike, hook wheels, or interfere with another horse or driver;

(3) cross sharply in front of a horse or cross over in front of a field of horses in a reckless manner so as to endanger other drivers;

(4) swerve in and out or pull up quickly;

(5) crowd a horse or driver by "putting a wheel under him;"

(6) "carry a horse out" or "sit down in front of a horse," take up abruptly in front of other horses so as to cause confusion or interference among the trailing horses;

(7) let a horse pass inside needlessly, or otherwise help another horse to improve its position in the race;

(8) lay off a normal pace and leave a hole when it is well within the horse's capacity to keep the hole closed;

(9) commit any act that impedes the progress of another horse or causes that horse to break from its gait;

(10) change course after selecting a position in the home stretch and swerve in or out, or bear in or out, in a manner that interferes with another horse or causes that horse to change course or take back;

(11) drive in a careless or reckless manner;

(12) whip under the arch of the sulky;

(13) fail to set and maintain a proper pace while driving; or

(14) kick a horse. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1988 Supp. 74-8804(p); effective, T-112-7-27-89, July 27, 1989; effective Sept. 18, 1989.)

112-14-6. Harness race complaints. (a) Each complaint by a driver of foul driving or other misconduct during a heat or dash shall be made by the driver at its termination, unless the driver is prevented from making the complaint by an accident or injury. At the conclusion of each heat or dash, each driver shall return in the sulky to the starting gate to be dismissed by the stewards or the stewards' designee. Each driver desiring to enter a claim of foul or other complaint of a violation of the rules shall:

(1) Before dismounting, indicate to the starter the driver's desire to enter the claim or complaint;

(2) upon dismounting, proceed to the telephone or stewards stand to make an objection; and

(3) inform the stewards of the name of the driver and the number of horses involved, if possible, and the location in the race where the foul occurred. The stewards shall not cause the official sign to be displayed until the claim, objection or complaint has been entered and considered.

(b) After being dismissed by the stewards or starter, each driver shall return to the paddock and remain there until the race is made official. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. Supp. 1988 74-8804(p); effective, T-112-7-27-89, July 27, 1989; effective Sept. 18, 1989.)

112-14-7. Unsatisfactory harness race driving. Each heat in a race shall be run by every horse in the race and each horse shall be driven to the finish. If the stewards believe a horse has not been driven in the best interests of racing, the stewards may consider it a violation. In such cases, the driver and anyone who acted in concert with the driver to affect the outcome of the race or races may be fined or suspended by the commission. The stewards may substitute a competent and reliable driver at any time. Each substituted driver shall be paid at the direction of the stewards. If necessary, the fee shall be retained from the purse

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money earned by the horse, if any. (Authorized by K.S.A. 1988 Supp. 74-8804(p); implementing K.S.A. 1988 Supp. 74-8816(f); effective, T-112-7-27-89, July 27, 1989; effective Sept. 18, 1989.)

112-14-8. Failure to finish a harness race. Each horse that fails to finish after starting in a heat shall be ruled out, unless the failure to finish is caused by interference or broken equipment. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1988 Supp. 74-8804(p); effective, T-112-7-27-89, July 27, 1989; effective Sept. 18, 1989.)

112-14-9. Prohibited acts. (a) Loud shouting or similar conduct is forbidden in a race. After the word "go" is given, both feet of the driver shall be kept in the stirrups until after the finish of the race. Each driver shall have both feet in the stirrups when horses are parading to the post and during qualifying races.

(b) Whips shall not exceed four feet eight inches. Snappers shall not exceed eight inches. Brutal use of the whip shall be a violation punishable at the discretion of the commission by a fine or suspension, or both. Use of the butt-end of the whip shall be prohibited.

(c) Any person found guilty of removing or altering a horse's hobbles for the purpose of fraud may be fined or suspended by the commission. Each horse habitually wearing hobbles shall not be permitted to start in a race without them, except by the permission of the stewards. No horse shall wear a headpole protruding beyond its nose.

(d) If a horse breaks from its gait in trotting or pacing, the driver shall immediately take the horse to the outside where clearance exists and pull it to its gait.

(1) Any of the following may be considered a violation of these racing regulations:

(A) Failure to properly attempt to pull the horse to its gait;

(B) failure to take to the outside where clearance exists; or

(C) failure to lose ground by the break from the horse's gait.

(2) If there is no failure on the part of the driver in complying with subparagraphs (A), (B) or (C) above, the horse shall not be set back unless a contending horse on gait is lapped, or partly alongside, on the hind quarter of the breaking horse at the finish.

(3) The stewards may set any horse back one or more places if, in their judgment, any of the above violations has been committed, and the driver may be fined or suspended by the commission.

(4) If any horse breaks from its gait during any part of the race, and, in the opinion of the stewards, interferes with any horse or horses, the interference shall be a violation of these racing regulations. The interfering horse shall be placed behind all horses subject to the interference unless the driver of the horse or horses subject to the interference failed to exercise reasonable care to avoid the incident.

(e) If a driver allows a horse to break from its gait for the purpose of losing a heat or dash, the driver may be set down by the stewards or suspended or fined by the commission or any combination of the three.

(f) It shall be the duty of one of the stewards to call out every break made from a horse's gait. The clerk shall at once note the break in writing.

(g) Horses called for a race shall have the exclusive right of the course, and all other horses shall vacate the track at once, unless permitted to remain by the stewards. (Authorized by K.S.A. 1988 Supp. 74-8804(p); implementing K.S.A. 1988 Supp. 74-8816 (f); effective, T-112-7-27-89, July 27, 1989; effective Sept. 18, 1989.)

112-14-10 Driver safety standards. (a) Each driver shall wear a properly fastened safety helmet while driving a horse within the enclosure or while driving a horse in a race. All safety helmets shall be of a type and design approved by the commission.

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(b) Each driver shall have on file at the commission racetrack office a record of an eye examination indicating at least 20/40 corrected vision in both eyes, or if one eye is blind, at least 20/30 corrected vision in the other eye.

(c) Each driver shall submit evidence, on request, of a physical examination conducted by a duly licensed physician approved by the commission within the immediately preceding year. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. Supp. 1988 74-8804(p); effective, T-112-7-27-89, July 27, 1989; effective Sept. 18, 1989.)